

1 AN ACT concerning health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Arthritis Prevention and Control Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and purposes.

7 (a) Findings. The legislature hereby finds the following:

8 (1) Arthritis encompasses more than 100 diseases and  
9 conditions that affect joints, the surrounding tissues,  
10 and other connective tissues.

11 (2) One of the most common family of diseases in the  
12 United States, arthritis affects nearly one of every 6  
13 Americans and will impact an estimated 60,000,000 people  
14 (almost 20% of the population) by the year 2020.

15 (3) Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the  
16 United States, limiting daily activities for more than  
17 7,000,000 citizens.

18 (4) Although prevailing myths inaccurately portray  
19 arthritis as an old person's disease, arthritis is a  
20 multi-generational disease that has become one of the  
21 country's most pressing public health problems.

22 (5) This disease has a significant impact on quality of  
23 life not only for the individual who experiences its  
24 painful symptoms and resulting disability, but also for  
25 family members and caregivers.

26 (6) Compounding this picture are the enormous economic  
27 and social costs associated with treating arthritis and its  
28 complications, which are estimated at almost  
29 \$80,000,000,000 annually.

30 (7) Currently, the challenge exists to ensure delivery  
31 of effective, but often underutilized, interventions that  
32 are necessary in the prevention or reduction of

1 arthritis-related pain and disability.

2 (8) Although there exists a large quantity of public  
3 information and programs about arthritis, it remains  
4 inadequately disseminated and insufficient in addressing  
5 the needs of specific diverse populations and other  
6 underserved groups.

7 (9) The Arthritis Foundation, the Centers for Disease  
8 Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Association of State  
9 and Territorial Health Officials have led the development  
10 of a public health strategy, the National Arthritis Action  
11 Plan, to respond to this challenge.

12 (10) Educating the public and health care community  
13 throughout the State about this devastating disease is of  
14 paramount importance and is in every respect in the public  
15 interest and to the benefit of all residents of this State.

16 (b) Purposes. The purposes of this Act are:

17 (1) To create and foster a statewide program that  
18 promotes public awareness and increases knowledge about  
19 the causes of arthritis, the importance of early diagnosis  
20 and appropriate management, effective prevention  
21 strategies, and pain prevention and management.

22 (2) To develop knowledge and enhance understanding of  
23 arthritis by disseminating educational materials and  
24 information on research results, services provided, and  
25 strategies for prevention and control to patients, health  
26 professionals, and the public.

27 (3) To establish a solid scientific base of knowledge  
28 on the prevention of arthritis and related disability  
29 through surveillance, epidemiology, and prevention  
30 research.

31 (4) To utilize educational and training resources and  
32 services developed by organizations with appropriate  
33 expertise and knowledge of arthritis and to use available  
34 technical assistance.

35 (5) To evaluate the need for improving the quality and  
36 accessibility of existing community-based arthritis

1 services.

2 (6) To heighten awareness about the prevention,  
3 detection, and treatment of arthritis among State and local  
4 health and human services officials, health professionals  
5 and providers, and policy makers.

6 (7) To implement and coordinate State and local  
7 programs and services to reduce the public health burden of  
8 arthritis.

9 (8) To adequately fund these programs on a State level.

10 (9) To provide lasting improvements in the delivery of  
11 health care for individuals with arthritis and their  
12 families, thus improving their quality of life while also  
13 containing health care costs.

14 Section 10. Arthritis Prevention and Control Program.

15 (a) The Department of Public Health shall establish,  
16 promote, and maintain an Arthritis Prevention and Control  
17 Program to raise public awareness, educate consumers, and  
18 educate and train health professionals, teachers, and human  
19 services providers, and for other purposes. The program shall  
20 include the following components:

21 (1) Needs assessment. The Department of Public Health  
22 shall conduct a needs assessment to identify the following:

23 (A) Epidemiological and other public health  
24 research being conducted within the State.

25 (B) Available technical assistance and educational  
26 materials and programs nationwide and within the  
27 State.

28 (C) The level of public and professional arthritis  
29 awareness.

30 (D) The needs of people with arthritis and their  
31 families and caregivers.

32 (E) Educational and support service needs of  
33 health care providers, including physicians, nurses,  
34 managed care organizations, and other health care  
35 providers.

1 (F) The services available to a person with  
2 arthritis.

3 (G) The existence of arthritis treatment,  
4 self-management, physical activity, and other  
5 education programs.

6 (H) The existence of rehabilitation services.

7 (2) Advisory Council on Arthritis. The Department of  
8 Public Health shall establish and coordinate an Advisory  
9 Council on Arthritis to provide non-governmental input  
10 regarding the Arthritis Prevention and Control Program.  
11 Membership of the Council must include, but need not be  
12 limited to, persons with arthritis, public health  
13 educators, medical experts on arthritis, providers of  
14 arthritis health care, persons knowledgeable in health  
15 promotion and education, and representatives of national  
16 arthritis organizations and their local chapters.

17 (3) Public awareness. The Department of Public Health  
18 shall use, but is not limited to, strategies consistent  
19 with the National Arthritis Action Plan and existing State  
20 planning efforts to raise public awareness and knowledge on  
21 the causes and nature of arthritis, personal risk factors,  
22 the value of prevention and early detection, ways to  
23 minimize preventable pain, and options for diagnosing and  
24 treating the disease.

25 (4) Technical assistance. The Department of Public  
26 Health may replicate and use successful arthritis programs  
27 and enter into contracts with or purchase materials or  
28 services from entities with appropriate expertise for  
29 services and materials that are necessary to carry out the  
30 goals of the Arthritis Prevention and Control Program. The  
31 Department may enter into agreements with one or more  
32 national organizations with expertise in arthritis to  
33 implement parts of the Arthritis Prevention and Control  
34 Program.

35 (b) The Department of Public Health shall do all of the  
36 following:

1           (1) Provide sufficient staff to implement the  
2 Arthritis Prevention and Control Program.

3           (2) Provide appropriate training for staff of the  
4 Arthritis Prevention and Control Program.

5           (3) Identify the appropriate organizations to carry  
6 out the program.

7           (4) Base the program on the most current scientific  
8 information and findings.

9           (5) Work to increase and improve community-based  
10 services available to people with arthritis and their  
11 family members.

12           (6) Work with governmental offices, national voluntary  
13 health organizations and their local chapters, community  
14 and business leaders, community organizations, and health  
15 care and human services providers to coordinate efforts and  
16 maximize State resources in the areas of prevention,  
17 education, detection, pain management, and treatment of  
18 arthritis.

19           (7) Identify and, when appropriate, use evidence-based  
20 arthritis programs and obtain related materials and  
21 services from organizations with appropriate expertise and  
22 knowledge of arthritis.

23           Section 15. Funding. The Department of Public Health may  
24 accept grants, services, and property from the federal  
25 government, foundations, organizations, medical schools, and  
26 other entities that may be available for the purposes of  
27 fulfilling the obligations of the Arthritis Prevention and  
28 Control Program.

29           Section 20. Waivers. The Department of Public Health shall  
30 seek all waivers of federal law and regulations that may be  
31 necessary to maximize funds from the federal government to  
32 implement the Arthritis Prevention and Control Program.